

## REMARKS

The restriction requirement states that the inventions I, II, III, IV, and V are distinct because they are unrelated. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. Specifically, all of the claims, while directed to patentably distinct inventions, are related since they relate to the storing of semi-structured data. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims in groups I-V should be examined together.

Even if the claims are drawn to patentably distinct or independent inventions, MPEP § 803 provides that “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” Although the scope of the claims of Groups I-V varies and Applicant agrees that the claims are patentably distinct, many of the claimed features are similar. For example, each of the claims is related to the storing of semi-structured data. Accordingly, although it is acknowledged that the inventions of Groups I-V are patentably distinct, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not unduly burden the examiner to simultaneously examine the claims of Groups I-V.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this matter, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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